

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 05341 310638 Z

13

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 /018 W
----- 084725

R 310531 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1463

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5341

DEPT FOR A/ SY/ FO

HONG KONG FOR RSS, RTC

E. O. 11652/ GDS

TAGS: ASEC, CB

SUBJECT: CERAMIC ARMOR

REF: PHNOM PENH 4707, 4588, AND STATE 103361, 091667

1. WE OBTAINED PLATE OF CERAMIC ARMOR AND TESTED YESTERDAY AGAINST AK-47 AND M-16, AT 0 DEGREES OBLIQUITY, 75 FEET.
2. BOTH AK-47 AND M-16 EASILY PENETRATED CERAMIC. TEST SHEET WILL BE FORWARDED A/ SY/ FO, ATTN/ SARGENT.
3. POST NOW EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AUTOMOBILE BEING PROGRAMMED AS REPLACEMENT FOR EAT PLYMOUTH PRESENTLY USED BY AMBASSADOR. OUR TESTS INDICATE THAT 2 1/2" THICKNESS OF PLEXI- G SHOULD BE USED ON ALL WINDOW SURFACES. FURTHER, BECAUSE CERAMIC IS SO HEAVY AND OBVIOUSLY NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET THREAT LEVEL AT THIS POST, WE WOULD REQUEST SY EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF LINING ENTIRE CAR WITH 2 1/2" THICKNESS OF PLEXI- G, WHICH IS ABLE WITHSTAND AK-47 AND M-16 ASSAULT.
4. FYI. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PLEXI- G TO DATE, THOUGH NOT EXTENSIVE WITH RESPECT TO TIME, HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. DISTORTION LEVELS NOT OF CONSEQUENCE EXCEPT AT PRONOUNCED ANGLES. SOME LIGHT REFRACTION NOTICEABLE AT NIGHT, BUT

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DRIVER CAN ADJUST EASILY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW LIGHT TRAFFIC
THIS CITY. PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO HEAT AND SUN HAS HAD
NO NOTICEABLE EFFECT SO FAR.

5. WITH RESPECT TO MYLAR, WE FIND IT MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE
ON FLAT SURFACES ONLY. EVEN THEN, BUBBLES TEND TO FORM,
THERE IS SOME DISTORTION AT PRONOUNCED ANGLES, AND MYLAR
TENDS TO MAR ON THAT PORTION WHICH COMES IN CONTACT WITH
WINDOW ROLLER GUIDES.
SWANK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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